

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*



Miner Claude Chana Sculpture in Auburn – Photo Credit: Donald M. Westphal

French settler Claude Chana (1811-1882) learned of James Marshall's discovery of gold at the Sawmill in Coloma and set out with a party to try his luck. On May 16, 1848, Claude found gold in the Auburn Ravine.

By April 1849, the area where Claude found gold, North Fork Dry Diggings, had become a well-established mining camp. The camp went by many names including Woods Dry Diggings, Auburn Ravine, Baltimore Ravine, Rich Ravine, Spanish Ravine, and others. These small ravines acted like "catch basins" for lumps of gold deposited from ancient river channels. Each rain brought more gold nuggets into the fast-flowing streams. The camp was officially named "Auburn" in August 1849.

As a tribute to Claude Chana, Dr. Kenneth H. Fox sculpted a 45-ton statue located in Old Town Auburn by Highway 80.

For more information on Claude Chana, please visit:

<http://auburnca-realestate.com/2009/03/17/history-of-auburn-ca-claude-chana/>